

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF PUERTO RICO

RUTH RODRIGUEZ RESTO,

Plaintiff,

v.

COMMISSIONER OF SOCIAL SECURITY,

Defendant.

Civil No. 05-2086 (JAF)

O R D E R

Plaintiff, Ruth Rodríguez Resto, has filed a petition pursuant to section 205(g) of the Social Security Act, 42 U.S.C. § 405(g) (2003 & Supp. 2005), requesting that we review the final decision of the Commissioner of the Social Security Administration ("government") denying her disability insurance benefits.

_____Plaintiff was denied disability insurance benefits under Title II of the Social Security Act by an Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ") on March 22, 2005. Social Security's Appeals Council refused to review the ALJ decision on July 29, 2005. Plaintiff filed this action on October 12, 2005, seeking review of the denial. Docket Document No. 2.

The government filed a motion to dismiss on December 27, 2005. Docket Document Nos. 8,9. No opposition has been filed.

The government argues that Plaintiff's complaint must be dismissed, as it was filed outside of the sixty-day statute of

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1 limitations set for such actions by the Social Security Act. Docket
2 Document Nos. 8,9.

3 The Social Security Act permits an individual to obtain review
4 of "any final decision of the Commissioner of Social Security" in a
5 United States District Court so long as she commences the action
6 "within sixty days after the mailing to [her] of notice of such
7 decision." 42 U.S.C. § 405 (g).
8

9 The Appeals Council's July 29, 2005, refusal to review the ALJ
10 decision is the "final decision" that began to run the sixty-day
11 statute of limitations against Plaintiff in this case. 20 C.F.R.
12 § 422.210(c) (defining an appeals council denial of review as a
13 "final decision" for the purposes of a plaintiff's petition to have
14 a denial of benefits reviewed by a United States District Court).

15 The government importantly observes that Section 405(g) did not
16 permit the sixty-day limitations period to begin running against
17 Plaintiff until after the Appeals Council's July 29, 2005, decision
18 had been mailed to her. 42 U.S.C. § 405(g). Because Social Security
19 regulations dictate that mailing time "shall be presumed to be 5 days
20 after the date of such notice," we hold that the sixty-day
21 limitations period in this case began to run on August 3, 2003. 20
22 C.F.R. § 422.210 (c).

23 Sixty days later, on October 3, 2005, the limitations period
24 tolled. Plaintiff waited until October 12, 2005, to file her
25 complaint, which was nine days too late.

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IT IS SO ORDERED.

s/José Antonio Fusté
JOSE ANTONIO FUSTE
Chief U. S. District Judge